

SPEAKER BARRETT: LR 281 is adopted. LR 283, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 283 is offered by Senators Coordsen, Warner, Bernard-Stevens, Rogers, Elmer, Schellpeper, Campbell, Scofield, and Wehrbein. It is found on page 868 of the Journal. (Read brief explanation.)

SPEAKER BARRETT: The gentleman from Hebron, Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. Last December, as part of the budget reconciliation package that was passed in Congress, there was a change made in the way that the highway use tax, the Federal Highway Use Tax for diesel fuel would be collected by the federal government. The impact that this had on agriculture, for agriculture, the diesel fuel used in agriculture is not liable for any sales tax or any highway use tax. Because of the means of collection, farmers in Nebraska and across the United States would have to pay this amount of money up front to recover it later as a refund or a credit on their income tax. In the State of Nebraska, this would mean about \$25 million out of our economy, some \$400 million nationally. There is an effort from many members of Congress to change this statutorily. The U.S. Treasury has the authority to create exemptions, have done so for construction, for public utilities. This resolution would encourage the addition of agriculture to the list of exempted entities, and in the absence of such action by Treasury, would encourage and support the members of Congress who are trying to repeal this statute statutorily. So I would urge the adoption of this amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the resolution, the gentleman from the 41st District, Senator Rogers.

SENATOR ROGERS: Mr. President, members, I am sure there is not very many people listening to what George and I are saying this morning, but I would surely ask for the adoption of this resolution. I think it is a very unfair tax. The government...I don't think we should be in the position that we have to loan the federal government money for part of the year. So I just would urge the adoption of this resolution.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Dierks.